**Student Biography**

Today I had the privilege of working with Trinity in 3rd grade. She was wonderful from the moment I met her. She wasted no time in talking to me by telling me it was her 9th birthday even before she walked out of her classroom. We continued talking about her birthday plans all the way to the library.

Once we got settled, I explained to her that we would be working together for the next few weeks. She seemed very excited and eager to get started. First I asked her some informal questions about the books she likes to read. She told me her favorites were *Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Baby Mouse, Fancy Nancy,* and *Magic Tree House*. I asked her why she liked these books and she responded “because of the cover and the pictures”.

Next I wanted to know more about her and her life. I asked her what she liked to do when she wasn’t at school. She said she liked to listen to music. I asked her who her favorite singer was and she answered Taylor Swift and One Direction. I asked her if there was anything else that she liked to do and she said that she likes to “play outside, play volleyball, play tennis, and play Just Dance on the Wii”.

Then I wanted to know about her family life so I asked her if she had any brothers or sister. She answered that she had both an older brother and an older sister. She lives with her siblings at her aunt home along with her uncle and grandmother. I asked her if she had any pets and she said no.

Finally I asked her what some of her favorite things were. Her favorite color is pink. Her favorite place is the beach. But, I was most surprised to hear that her favorite animal is an anaconda. That is a response I have never received from a student.

Then it was on to the formal reading, interests, and attitudes assessments. She did real well on these and completed them with no apprehension. I was both sad and surprised to hear about the attitude Trinity has about herself as a reader and what she feels her friends think of her as a reader. Most children I have worked with have always talked themselves up, but she talked herself down. I was also surprised to find out that she only had four books of her own at home.

We ended our time together by reading a book called *You’re the Cat’s Meow! How to Love and Raise Your Cat*. We started by doing a picture walk and I had Trinity predict what the book would be about. I also pointed out vocabulary words that I thought would be new to her. As I read to her, I would pause and ask questions to test her comprehension skills. She seemed to be keeping up with the reading. After the book was over I wanted to look at a small writing sample so I had her make a list of words that described cats. She came up with the words very quickly, but using correct spelling was not apparent and it took her a long time to get started with each word.

All in all I think our first meeting was very good. II have not yet chosen the theme for our unit, I plan on using our next session to ask a few more questions and then will decide on a theme. I am excited to continue working with Trinity over the next few weeks.